

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06
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CEA-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
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APPROVED BY E:RNCOOPER
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S/P:WALAKE
S/S - ;R. SEBASTIAN

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
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BANGKOK FOR ESCAP DEL; GUATEMALA FOR ECLA DEL

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E.O. 11652; N/A

TAGS: UN, EGEN

SUBJECT: U.S. PRACTICE IN DEALING WITH NIEO

VIENNA FOR UNIDO

1. SUMMARY: THE DEPARTMENT HAS LONG BEEN CONCERNED OVER
THE INORDINATE AMOUNT OF TIME AND EFFORT SPENT BY U.S.

DELEGATIONS TO INNUMERABLE UN MEETINGS IN DEALING WITH THE RECURRENT AND NETTLESOME PROBLEM OF PROTECTING OUR POSITION IN THE FACE OF RESOLUTION LANGUAGE ENDORSING OR CALLING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO). WE HAVE THEREFORE DECIDED TO ADJUST OUR PRESENT PRACTICE BOTH FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING THE ATTENTION GIVEN TO THIS DIVERSIONARY PROBLEM AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTRIBUTING TO A LESS NEGATIVE IMAGE. THE MAIN ELEMENT IN THIS ADJUSTMENT IS A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE NIEO AS A GENERAL CONCEPT FOR ACHIEVING A MORE EQUITABLE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM, WITH WHICH WE CAN SYMPATHIZE, AND THE SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNGA 6TH SPECIAL SESSION (THE DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NIEO), ON WHICH WE MAINTAIN OUR IMPORTANT RESERVATIONS. END SUMMARY

2. OUR PRESENT PRACTICE IN DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM, AS WELL AS THE RELATED ALTHOUGH LESS FREQUENT PROBLEM OF THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (CERDS), HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO PROTECT OUR POSITION ON THE TWO NIEO RESOLUTIONS (I.E., OUR RESERVATIONS) AS WELL AS THE CERDS (I.E., OUR NEGATIVE VOTES AND ABSTENTIONS) FROM EROSION IN THE FACE OF THE PERSISTENT EFFORTS OF THE G-77 TO ESTABLISH A RECORD OF ACCEPTANCE OF LANGUAGE ENDORSING OR CALLING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE DOCUMENTS, CONTAINING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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AS THEY DO PROVISIONS THAT CONFLICT WITH FUNDAMENTAL U.S. POLICIES ON SUCH SUBJECTS AS EXPROPRIATION/COMPENSATION, PRODUCERS CARTELS, INDEXATION, RESTITUTION FOR COLONIALISM AND NEOCOLONIALISM, ETC. HOWEVER, IN FOLLOWING OUR PRESENT PRACTICE -- EVEN WITH OUR CURRENT RELATIVELY LOW-KEY APPROACH -- WE ARE AWARE OF THE IMPRESSION GIVEN THAT WE DEVOTE UNDUE ATTENTION TO THIS RHETORICAL ISSUE AND THAT WE ARE SOMEHOW UNSYMPATHETIC TO THE GENERAL ASPIRATION OF THE LDC'S FOR A MORE EQUITABLE WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER. WE ALSO REALIZE THAT, WHILE A FEW COUNTRIES LIKE THE FRG AND UK ARE REASONABLY CLOSE TO OUR SUBSTANTIVE POSITION, EVEN THEY ARE MORE RELAXED IN PRACTICE, WITH THE RESULT THAT THE U.S. STANDS OUT AS THE MOST ADAMANT OF ALL WESTERN COUNTRIES IN REITERATING ITS TRADITIONAL POSITION AND IN ITS VOTING RECORD ON THIS ISSUE. THE ISSUE HAS BECOME IN A WAY A SYMBOL OF OUR DIFFERENCES WITH THE LDC'S.

3. ALTHOUGH THE NIEO CONCEPT IS STILL CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE ORIGINAL 6TH SPECIAL SESSION RESOLUTIONS, THE LDC'S HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY GIVEN THE CONCEPT A BROADER, EVOLUTIONARY CONTEXT BY ASCRIBING TO IT VARIOUS OTHER MEASURES SOUGHT OR UNDERTAKEN TO PROMOTE THEIR ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT. FOR EXAMPLE, THE CONSENSUS RESOLUTION OF THE 7TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNGA WAS ADOPTED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NIEO, ACCORDING TO THE PREAMBULAR LANGUAGE OF THE RESOLUTION ITSELF (ALBEIT A POINT ON WHICH WE RESERVED). MORE RECENT G-77 DEMANDS ARE ALSO ASCRIBED TO THE NIEO, WHICH THUS EMBRACES IDEAS THAT GO BEYOND THOSE INCLUDED IN THE NIEO RESOLUTIONS, SUCH AS THE COMMON FUND AND GENERALIZED DEBT RELIEF THAT NOW LOOM SO LARGE. MOREOVER, SOME OF THE ORIGINAL DEMANDS ARE NOT CURRENTLY PRESSED OR HAVE BEEN OVERTAKEN. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN, THE TERM NIEO IS INCREASINGLY USED BY OFFICIALS OF CERTAIN MORE LIBERAL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND BY WIDER PRIVATE CIRCLES IN THESE AND OTHER DEVELOPED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRIES -- INCLUDING SOME CONGRESSIONAL, ACADEMIC AND NGO CIRCLES IN THE U.S. -- TO SIGNIFY THE BROAD FRAMEWORK OF THE FORWARD MOVING NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE. BY THIS

EXPANDED DEFINITION THE NIEO SEEMS TO CONNOTE A GENERAL ASPIRATION FOR A MORE EQUITABLE WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER, COMPREHENDING IDEAS THAT ARE ACCEPTED -- OR ARE GAINING ACCEPTANCE -- IN BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS SOME THAT CONTINUE TO CONFLICT WITH U.S. POLICIES.

4. THUS WE SEE THAT A DISTINCTION CAN BE MADE BETWEEN THE GENERAL CONCEPT OF ACHIEVING SOME SORT OF NIEO, BY WHATEVER NAME, AND THE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE 6TH SPECIAL SESSION RESOLUTIONS. WE CAN SYMPATHIZE WITH THE FORMER AS WE WOULD DEFINE IT, WHILE MAINTAINING OUR RESERVATIONS ON CERTAIN KEY PROVISIONS OF THE LATTER. (THIS DISTINCTION CANNOT, OF COURSE, BE MADE IN THE CASE OF THE CERDS WHICH DOES NOT, IN ANY EVENT, HAVE THE SAME BROAD SYMBOLISM AS THE NIEO.) AS THE MISSION IS AWARE, OUR CURRENT GUIDELINES ON DEALING WITH REFERENCES TO THE NIEO AND CERDS (STATE AIRGRAM A-2950, JUNE 11, 1976) GENERALLY DO NOT MAKE THIS DISTINCTION. THEY CALL FOR APPROPRIATE REACTION (EITHER BY VOTE OR EXPLANATION) TO ENDORSEMENTS OR CALLS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NIEO (AND CERDS), WHETHER OR NOT THE 6TH SPECIAL SESSION RESOLUTIONS ARE EXPLICITLY REFERRED TO, IN ORDER TO PROTECT OUR POSITION ON THOSE RESOLUTIONS.

5. OUR NEW APPROACH, BY MAKING THIS DISTINCTION, IS DESIGNED TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF ATTENTION GIVEN TO THIS RHETORICAL ISSUE AND TO PROJECT A LESS NEGATIVE IMAGE WITH RESPECT TO THE GENERAL CONCEPT OF AN IMPROVED WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER, WHILE STILL PROTECTING OUR POSITION ON THE SPECIFIC NIEO RESOLUTIONS AND THE CERDS. WE REALIZE, OF COURSE, THAT THE DISTINCTION WILL NOT ALWAYS BE EASY

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TO MAKE. (IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE PREFERABLE IF OTHER TERMINOLOGY COULD BE USED FOR THE GENERAL CONCEPT, WITHOUT THE CONNOTATIONS OF THE TERM "NIEO", BUT WE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE LATTER WILL NOT GO AWAY, AND THAT THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF THE G-77 ABANDONING THIS TERM FOR SOMETHING ELSE SINCE THE NIEO AS THEY INTERPRET IT HAS SUCH SYMBOLIC AND SUBSTANTIVE IMPORTANCE TO THEM.)

6. THIS NEW APPROACH (WHICH WILL BE REFLECTED IN A REVISION OF THE CURRENT GUIDELINES) WILL CONSIST ESSENTIALLY OF THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS: WE WILL CONTINUE TO ACCEPT NON-COMMITTAL OR NEUTRAL REFERENCES TO THE NIEO AND CERDS AS BEFORE, BUT WE WILL NOW ALSO ACCEPT WITHOUT RESERVATION OR EXPLANATION LANGUAGE ENDORSING OR CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF "A" OR EVEN "THE" NIEO AS LONG AS THERE

IS NOT A CLEAR LINK, EXPLICIT OR IMPLICIT, TO THE 6TH SPECIAL SESSION NIEO RESOLUTIONS THEMSELVES. WE WILL MAINTAIN ESSENTIALLY OUR PRESENT PRACTICE WITH RESPECT TO ENDORSEMENTS OR CALLS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NIEO RESOLUTIONS (AS WELL AS THE CERDS), BUT WE WILL ADJUST THIS PRACTICE SO THAT (A) WE WILL GENERALLY NOT GO BEYOND BRIEF, LOW-KEY, INFORMAL SUGGESTIONS FOR ACCEPTABLE FORMULATIONS, AVOIDING PROTRACTED AND USUALLY FRUITLESS NEGOTIATIONS; AND (B) WE GENERALLY WILL NOT VOTE AGAINST OR ABSTAIN FROM OTHERWISE ACCEPTABLE RESOLUTIONS MERELY BECAUSE OF UNACCEPTABLE NIEO (OR CERDS) REFERENCES, LIMITING OURSELVES TO BRIEF EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE TO THE EFFECT THAT WE MAINTAIN OUR POSITIONS ON THESE DOCUMENTS. HOWEVER, IN THE CASE OF RESOLUTIONS WHOSE MAIN PURPOSE IS TO PROMOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NIEO RESOLUTIONS (AND/OR CERDS) WE WILL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE, ALBEIT IN LOW KEY. IN SUCH CASES, WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO AVOID PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS AND WILL THEN GENERALLY ABSTAIN (WITH AN EXPLANATION) IF OUR CLOSE ALLIES DO LIKEWISE, UNLESS THE RESOLUTION IN QUESTION CALLS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF
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SPECIFIC SUBSTANTIVE PROVISIONS WE STRONGLY OPPOSE. WE WILL TRY TO AVOID STANDING ALONE AS THE SOLE "NO", ALTHOUGH WE WILL DO SO IF OUR INTERESTS DICTATE.

7. BEFORE INAUGURATING THIS NEW PRACTICE, WE PLAN TO INCLUDE IN A FAIRLY MAJOR U.S. STATEMENT IN THE UN ON NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES AN EXPLANATORY PASSAGE ALONG THE LINES THAT WE HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH, IN FACT, SUPPORT, THE BROAD CON-

CEPT (ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY ANY SPECIFIC CONTENT) OF ACHIEVING A "NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER" BY WHATEVER NAME; HOWEVER, WE CONTINUE TO OPPOSE CERTAIN KEY PROVISIONS OF THE 6TH SPECIAL SESSION RESOLUTIONS (AS WELL AS THE CERDS), WHILE AT THE SAME TIME FINDING MUCH IN THESE DOCUMENTS WE CAN SUPPORT. WE WOULD ALSO INCLUDE A BRIEF AND GENERAL EXPLANATION OF OUR PROSPECTIVE PRACTICE IN DEALING WITH RESOLUTIONS SO THAT IT WILL NOT BE MISUNDERSTOOD. WE WOULD PLAN TO EMBELLISH OUR EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY FOR THE BROAD CONCEPT BY GIVING IT A DEFINITION TO SUIT OUR OWN INTERPRETATION OF IT AS A GENERAL ASPIRATION IN THE OVERALL FRAMEWORK OF THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE. THE OCCASIONS WE HAVE IN MIND FOR SUCH A STATEMENT ARE THE RESUMED 31ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IF IT TAKES PLACE, OR ALTERNATIVELY THE 63RD (SUMMER) ECOSOC.

8. IF IN THE FUTURE OUR POSITION SHOULD BE MISINTERPRETED BY OTHERS, THIS U.S. STATEMENT COULD BE DRAWN UPON AS NECESSARY BY U.S. DELEGATIONS TO CLARIFY THAT THE U.S.,

IN ENDORSING THE CONCEPT OF A NIEO, HAS NOT NECESSARILY ACCEPTED ANY SPECIFIC MEASURES OTHERS MAY CONSIDER INCLUDED IN THEIR CONCEPT OF THE NIEO.

9. PENDING THE ABOVE STATEMENT, WE WISH TO CONSULT WITH OUR CLOSE ALLIES IN ORDER TO APPRISE THEM OF OUR INTENTIONS AND TO HEAR THEIR REACTIONS.

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10. IN THE MEANTIME, UNTIL WE INSTITUTE OUR NEW PRACTICE, WE WILL ATTEMPT TO FIND WAYS OF BRIDGING OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE PRACTICE. FOR EXAMPLE, WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE IN CASES OF LANGUAGE ENDORSING OR CALLING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NIEO EVEN WHEN THERE IS NO EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO THE 6TH SPECIAL SESSION RESOLU-

TIONS, BUT WE SHOULD AVOID SUCH STATEMENTS AS "THE U.S. POSITION ON THE NIEO REMAINS UNCHANGED". IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO USE EXPLANATIONS ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: "TO THE EXTENT THAT THE REFERENCE TO THE NIEO MAY IMPLICITLY REFER TO THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE 6TH SPECIAL SESSION, MY DELEGATION MUST REITERATE THAT THE U.S. MAINTAINS ITS WELL-KNOWN RESERVATIONS ON THOSE RESOLUTIONS."

11. ACTION REQUESTED: USUN IS REQUESTED TO EXPLAIN THE GIST OF THE ABOVE INFORMALLY TO THE UN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UK, FRG, FRANCE, ITALY, JAPAN AND CANADA AT THIS TIME AND TO REPORT THEIR REACTIONS. WE ARE NOT ASKING INFO EMBASSIES TO TAKE A SPECIAL INITIATIVE IN THIS REGARD, BUT THEY ARE FREE TO DRAW ON THE FOREGOING IN THEIR OWN

DISCRETION IF THE SUBJECT SHOULD ARISE.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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SAS ID: 2669334
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. PRACTICE IN DEALING WITH NIEO
TAGS: EGEN, PORG, US, UN
To: USUN N Y INFO GENEVA MULTIPLE
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